

emissions and helping our Nation's corn and soybean producers by reinforcing this essential market.

The pandemic has highlighted vulnerabilities in our Nation's food supply chain, especially when it comes to meat processing capacity. Too much of our Nation's processing capacity is concentrated in a handful of facilities, leaving our meat supply vulnerable if a problem like a coronavirus outbreak occurs at one of these plants.

I recently introduced the Strengthening Local Processing Act with Senator MERKLEY. Our legislation would help expand national meat processing capacity by providing new resources for smaller, more local meat processing operations. Spreading out and expanding our Nation's meat processing capacity over more plants will make our Nation's meat supply less vulnerable to interruption in situations like the coronavirus pandemic or natural disasters and provide livestock producers with more marketing options.

I am proud to represent South Dakota's farmers and ranchers here in Congress, and I will continue to do everything I can to ensure that all of our Nation's farmers and ranchers have the support they need to weather the rest of this pandemic and to continue feeding our Nation and the world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

NOMINATION OF JENNIFER MULHERN GRANHOLM

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I am proud to stand today in support of Jennifer Granholm's nomination to be the next Secretary of Energy.

I have known Secretary-designate Granholm for many years, and I served in her administration while she was Governor. There is no question she is uniquely qualified to serve as Secretary of Energy. As the Governor of Michigan, she led our State through an economic crisis. She knows how to deal with multifaceted challenges and has a documented record of strong leadership.

During her confirmation hearing, Jennifer Granholm outlined three key missions that she wants to prioritize in her new role: one, strengthening national security, particularly on nuclear nonproliferation through the National Nuclear Security Administration; two, supporting the research and development at scientific research facilities all across our Nation; and, three, utilizing that research to create new, good-paying jobs for Americans. All of these issues are issues that Jennifer Granholm has been focused on throughout her entire career.

As Governor, she worked to support groundbreaking research that is conducted at Michigan's world-class institutions—research that is constantly leading to new discoveries that will change the world to create jobs and save lives. As Governor, Jennifer

Granholm secured bipartisan support to establish the 21st Century Jobs Fund, which leveraged funding to diversify Michigan's economy, create jobs in clean energy by attracting new business investments, and put Michigan on a better path.

Those are the kinds of actions and investments that I look forward to working closely with Secretary-designate Granholm on in the coming months and in the coming years, and it is clear that she also recognizes what must be done to advance our Nation's energy interests, because she has already achieved results in Michigan.

If we are going to build back better, we must do so in a sustainable, forward-thinking way that addresses climate change. That is something President Biden's administration is committed to doing, and I know Secretary Granholm is as well. I could not be more excited to say that we will have a fellow Michigander leading the Department of Energy, and I urge all of my colleagues to support her confirmation.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Jennifer Mulhern Granholm, of Michigan, to be Secretary of Energy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from West Virginia and I both be allowed to complete our remarks before moving to the rollcall vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF JENNIFER MULHERN GRANHOLM

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, when Governor Granholm came before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for her nomination hearing, she said she was committed to American energy dominance. She stated she understood the importance of having a broad energy mix and supporting energy innovation.

Now, I asked her if it was a good thing that the United States is the world's leading producer of oil and natural gas, and she said it was. I asked her if low energy prices and high-paying American energy jobs were good things, and she agreed that they were. And when I asked her if America exporting its energy influence around the globe was a good thing, she again affirmed that it was. She has demonstrated that she is dedicated to supporting carbon capture, nuclear power, and American uranium production.

For these reasons, she cleared our committee with broad bipartisan support and will soon be confirmed by the Senate. I expect we will work together

closely on these efforts when she leads the Department of Energy.

During her nomination hearing, Governor Granholm also said that she didn't want to see anyone lose their job or get left behind. Yet this is exactly what the Biden administration is doing to thousands of American energy workers.

On Inauguration Day, the President spoke of unity and bringing our Nation back together. Once he arrived at the White House, however, he threw that rhetoric out the window, picked up his pen, and started signing radical Executive orders.

His orders to ban oil, gas, and coal leasing on Federal lands and to kill the Keystone XL Pipeline will throw thousands of Americans out of work. These workers' livelihoods are being sacrificed in the name of the Biden agenda. Leaders in the administration are telling these oil rig and coal mine and pipeline workers that they can simply get new jobs building solar panels.

Actually, John Kerry said that the Biden administration policies will give these workers better choices. In 2019, the average salary of a solar panel technician was about \$30,000 a year less than the average salary of a worker in the gas, oil, and coal industry. So John Kerry flies around the world, private jet, but is asking American energy workers to each take \$30,000 a year less in income. And that is if these green energy jobs even exist.

To that point, the Washington Post Fact Checker took a look at what John Kerry had said, and they said he was offering "false hope with a misleading use of statistics."

Look, we have heard it all before. When President Biden was Vice President, the Obama administration promised thousands of green energy jobs—jobs that never materialized. Millions of taxpayer dollars were wasted on green energy companies that went belly-up.

Now the "Solyndra Syndrome" has returned. The Washington Post Fact Checker said it expects just a little over 10,000 new wind and solar jobs over the next 10 years.

In Wyoming alone, the long-term leasing ban would result in 33,000 workers losing their jobs. And where are these Wyoming workers supposed to go?

Hundreds of thousands more workers are going to lose their jobs in New Mexico, Colorado, Texas, and other States. How will they provide for their families?

The Biden ban won't just hurt workers; it is going to hurt kids too. A long-term leasing ban is going to eliminate hundreds of millions of dollars in State revenue—the dollars which go for essential services, for public schools, for roads, bridges, and hospitals. A long-term leasing ban is going to hurt teachers, students, and the communities they call home.

America needs all the energy—the oil, the gas, the coal, the uranium, the

wind, the solar—all of them. Banning fossil fuels will hurt our economy and force more workers out of work.

President Biden has declared war on American energy and American energy workers, and I just can't stand by as this administration tries to crush Wyoming's economy. I can't support an administration that throws my constituents out of work and hurts the schools and the hospitals in the communities and the teachers who teach the children.

Energy is a force multiplier. American energy is—America is an energy superpower. We need to act that way.

President Biden seems to want to pull the plug on American energy dominance. So I cannot in good conscience vote to approve his nominee for Secretary of Energy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, first, I ask unanimous consent that upon the disposition of the Granholm nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the Cardona nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF JENNIFER MULHERN GRANHOLM

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, first of all, I am delighted to speak today on the nomination of Jennifer Granholm to be Secretary of Energy.

I have known Jennifer since we were Governors together more than a decade ago. She served two terms as Governor of Michigan from 2003 to 2010. That was a particularly challenging time in her State's history, and I saw how she handled the difficult challenges facing her during the Great Recession and when the bottom dropped out of the auto industry in her State.

She was up to those challenges. She helped save the domestic auto industry. She diversified Michigan's economy. She brought in new investment and new industry, and she created new jobs, leaving no worker behind.

I know she will continue to apply the mindset at the national level. She has the leadership skills, the vision, and the compassion for people that we need at the helm of the Department of Energy to face the climate challenge and, at the same time, preserve our energy security, protect our national security, clean up the Cold War legacy, and preserve our scientific and technological prowess.

Moreover, she is someone you can talk to and work with. She listens, and she is an honest broker. She may not always agree with you, but she will listen to your concerns and will try to address them.

Finally, she is just simply a good person. That is a quality that I value and expect all of my colleagues would benefit from.

I believe she is extremely well qualified to lead the Department of Energy, and I urge—I truly urge—all of my colleagues to show in this bipartisan vote to confirm her nomination today.

I also yield back the remaining time of our presentation.

VOTE ON GRANHOLM NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Granholm nomination?

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 64, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 66 Ex.]

YEAS—64

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Risch
Blumenthal	Hoeven	Romney
Booker	Johnson	Rosen
Brown	Kaine	Rounds
Burr	Kelly	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schatz
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Shaheen
Casey	Lujan	Sinema
Collins	Manchin	Smith
Coons	Markey	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Tester
Cramer	Menendez	Van Hollen
Crapo	Merkley	Warner
Daines	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Portman	

NAYS—35

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Rubio
Blunt	Hagerty	Sasse
Boozman	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Capito	Inhofe	Shelby
Cassidy	Kennedy	Thune
Cornyn	Lankford	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Ernst	Marshall	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	

NOT VOTING—1

Sullivan

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Miguel A. Cardona, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, on January 20, the world watched as we inaugu-

rated the 46th President of the United States on the west front of the Capitol, as we have done now for the last four decades. But this was the 59th time in our Nation's history that we have gathered to witness one of what has really become one of our most iconic and sacred ceremonies. I described it that day, as President Reagan did 40 years earlier, as "commonplace and miraculous." Commonplace because we have done it every 4 years since 1789; miraculous because we have done it every 4 years since 1789.

This is the second time I have had the privilege to serve as the chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies or, as it is normally known, JCCIC, and that is how I will refer to it in the rest of these remarks. Senator KLOBUCHAR, the ranking member at that time on the Rules Committee, was a big part of helping with that, as were the other four members of that committee.

In a normal year, organizing an inauguration is a major undertaking, but when you add a pandemic and then you add the events of January 6, it is uniquely challenging. Without a doubt, this was an inauguration of twists and turns, where adaptability, creativity, and determination were crucial.

Today, I am here on the floor to thank the staff, the partners, and the volunteers who met those challenges and made this year's inauguration a success.

As I mentioned earlier, the two factors that posed the greatest challenges this year were the pandemic and security. In order to keep the inauguration from becoming a superspreader event, we consulted with public health authorities at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and the Cleveland Clinic. We engaged experts from the National Football League, the Major League Baseball, NASCAR, the National Hockey League, Disney, Ardian Group, and CLEAR about pandemic protocols and technology that relates to them.

We were in regular consultation with the Office of the Attending Physician, particularly Dr. Monahan and his chief of staff, Keith Pray. And we relied on support from the Defense Health Agency and the Department of Health and Human Services' COVID-19 Joint Command Cell. Testing was required for all attendees, and over 7,000 tests were administered at two sites, one in the Capitol and one in the Pentagon.

Masks were required to be worn by all attendees. Graciously, Ford Motor Company produced a significant quantity of masks, truly a first for this or any inauguration, and we are grateful to them, and 3M provided some specialized masks for the limited indoor activities that we had.

The health and safety measures put together really created significant logistical challenges. All of this couldn't have been done without the leadership of Robin Mangan, our director of operations for that health activity and that testing activity. Her team,